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Title: Need to take steps for setting up of Office of Consulate General of Pakistan in Amritsar and Indian High Commission in Lahore for speedy processing of visa applications of Indian citizens.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (FARIDKOT): There is urgent need to set up an office of the consulate General of Pakistan and Indian High Commission at Amritsar and Lahore, respectively. In the present scenario when India and Pakistan are moving towards a liberalised visa regime this step will help in bolstering trade and promote people to people ties. This step would facilitate people since they would not have to travel to Delhi for the purpose. Secondly Indian nationals visiting Pakistan face a lot of problems and inconvenience because Pakistan authorities take about two month to process the visa application. The Union Government should prevail upon the Government of Pakistan to curtail this period. Similarly the traders from Pakistan intending to visit India on the invitation of a Chamber of Commerce should be permitted. Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab has also taken up the issue with Union Home Minister.

I hope the Union Government would take immediate action in this matter.